(b) if so, the details of his visit to Europe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Minister of Power had visited France and Austria in May, 2001. The details are as under:—

1.	Visit to France (14-18th May, 2001)	To attend the Ministerial Meeting of the International Energy Agency (IEA).
2.	Visit to Austria (18-22nd May, 2001)	To discuss issues of mutual interest in the power sector with the Austrian Government and to seek Austrian expertise for the development of the hydro sector.

Laying of transmission lines between Trichi and Neyveli by L and T Ltd.

397. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has awarded the contract of laying of transmission lines between Trichi and Neyveli to M/s Larsen and Toubro Limited (L and T Ltd.);

(b) if so, the details of contract viz. distance between Trichi and Neyveli, cost of project, total number of transmission towers constructed etc., so far by L and T Ltd.;

(c) whether the project has been delayed by the company; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the project will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Power Grid Corporation

of India Ltd. (PGCIL) have awarded the contract for LILO of 400 KV D/C Neyveli-Trichi Transmission line to M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T Ltd.) on 12.12.2000.

(b) The distance between Trichi and Neyveli is 164 kms. However, the project awarded by PGCIL to M/s L&T Ltd. is only for LILO of one circuit of Trichi-Neyveli 400 KV D/C line and the route length of the LILO portion is 14.6 kms. The contract has been awarded at a cost of Rs. 12.31 crores. The project involves 37 transmission towers out of which construction of 33 towers has been completed.

(c) and (d) The transmission project is associated with the Neyveli Power Project (Stage-I expansion) and is expected to be completed by July, 2001 i.e. before the commissioning of the generation project in September, 2001, as against the contractual completion date of June, 2001.

Tours undertaken by Directors of PGCIL

398. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of instructions of Government to minimize expenditure on travelling and other heads the Directors of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) are undertaking unnecessary tours to various countries;

(b) if so, the details of tours undertaken by various Directors of the PGCIL during the last two years with purpose of the tour, expenditure incurred on TA/DA and boarding and lodging;

(c) whether some Directors have taken their family members on tour abroad and in India during last two years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation India Ltd. (PGCIL) has informed that the Directors of